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# Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Speech 12

Claiborne Pell

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**STATEMENT OF SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL IN SUPPORT  
OF THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AND  
HUMANITIES**

Mr. President, in the nearly thirty years it has been in existence, The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities has been an immense benefit to our nation. Arts and humanities programs have sprung up and developed around the country in response to National Endowment seed money and are now available to Americans in regions that were formerly lacking, particularly rural and inner city areas.

The Humanities Endowment supports scholarly research, education and public programs concerned with history, literature, philosophy, language and other humanistic disciplines. The NEH has supported popular and scholarly works, including the Pulitzer Prize winning Slavery and Human Progress and programs such as The Civil War, Columbus and the Age of Discovery and the upcoming series Baseball by Mr. Ken Burns. The Arts Endowment, in turn, provides support to non-profit organizations and individuals in dance, design and folk arts, literature, opera and other artistic endeavors. Due to matching funds from state councils, community organizations and private donors, arts organizations now have the resources to present programs of extraordinary caliber and variety. Before the Arts Endowment came into existence, there were 37 professional dance companies in this country, today there are nearly 300. There were 58 orchestras, today there are more than a thousand. There were 22 professional theaters, today there are 420.

The results of the Endowment also show themselves in the number of Americans who attend arts events. 15 million more Americans go to symphony performances each year than went prior to the NEA's establishment. Before the Endowment, 1 million people a year attended theatrical performances; today, fifty-five million attend.

Finally, the Institute of Museum Services works to provide grants for expenses and conservation activities for art, history and science museums, among others. The Seattle Aquarium, the Desert Botanical Garden, the Akron Art Museum, The Children's Museum of Houston and many other have received essential IMS support. 87% of IMS grantees use these federal funds to strengthen their educational activities. Mr. President, the National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities has been a great success and has contributed significantly to the cultural life of our citizens. I urge my colleagues to vote for its continued support.